IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend paragraph **[0042]** as follows:

[0042] Also, it is worth noting that not all thermostats electrically act as on/off switches. For example a bi-metallic cooling thermostat contemplated by the present invention may have a resistor across its contacts. Often, the resistor will have a value of about 3.6K ohms. The purpose of the resistor is to act as an "anticipator" for the thermostat. That is, when the contact is open (off), voltage will be imposed across the resistor. It will dissipate heat and prompt the thermostat to close its contacts a bit earlier than it normally would have. This is why it is commonly referred to as an "anticipator."

Please amend paragraph **[0058]** as follows:

[0058] As shown in FIGS.4A-C, the falling edge of the timing signal 302 interrupts the microcontroller 114. The interrupt routine samples the conditioned thermostat input 400 at time 404 after about a 2-millisecond delay 410 from the falling edge 402 as shown in FIG. 4C. The delay 410 insures that the input will be valid. That is, the microprocessor 114 looks to the signal coming in from the one or more of the RS232 receivers feeding their output to the microprocessor from the thermostats 102. If the microprocessor samples a negative pulse, it will treat that as a thermostat switch in the closed position and activate the relay circuit 126 to close. This will, in turn, activate the load, for example, turning on a furnace. Concurrent with sending a signal to the relay circuit 126, the microprocessor 114 sends a signal to the driver circuit 124 to pull down the 24VDC of the relay circuit 126, causing the relay switch to go from position 4 to position 3 as shown in FIGS. 3A and 3B.